FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
9-387B-C	ORLEANS		EAS.781 EAS.782

Town/City: Town of Eastham

Place: *(neighborhood or village)*:
North Eastham/Nauset

Address: 2022 Nauset Road (house)
15 Tracy Lane (barn)

Historic Name: Heman S. & Mary J. Gill House & Barn

Uses: Present: condominiums

Original: single-family residence

Date of Construction: 1858-62

Source: deeds, vital records, censuses, maps

Style/Form: Gothic Revival/crosswing

Architect/Builder: Heman S. Gill, probable builder

Exterior Material:
Foundation: parged masonry

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards & wood shingles/wood

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Barns & connected outbuildings, late 19th c.

Major Alterations *(with dates)*:
House & barn interiors renovated, ca. 1990
Windows added to barn & outbuildings, ca. 1990

Condition: good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

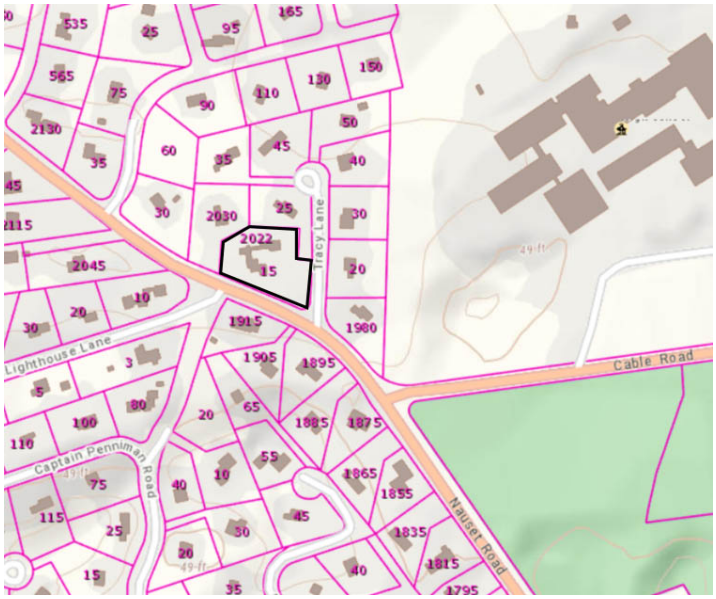
Acreage: 0.78

Setting: The property is situated in the midst of a mid-20th-century residential subdivision platted on the farm it once was. A large central high school is located just east of the house on Cable Road.

Photograph

View from SE.

Locus Map (north at top)



Source: Mass GIS Oliver Parcel Viewer

Recorded by: Kathryn Grover & Neil Larson
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date: June 2020

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Heman S. & Mary J. Gill House & Barn constitute a farmstead established ca. 1860 and contains a story-and-a-half wood frame crosswing-plan house with connected outbuildings and a free-standing barn, which may have originated as a carpentry workshop and converted to a storage facility for truck farming; the barn has been converted into a dwelling.

The crosswing house has a three-bay front-gable façade with an offset entrance containing a mid-20th-century door and Colonial Revival-style architrave. Two windows to one side of the entrance and two in the upper story retain pedimented headers and what appear to be original two-over-two wood sash and louvered blinds. Wide corner boards terminate at a frieze running along the deep raking eaves of the gable. The east side wall contains three windows with features matching those on the front. The cross-gable wing has four original windows spaced across its front, which is set back from the front-gable block. The entrance into the wing is from a porch on the west end. There are brick chimneys at the front and rear of the main block; one in the wing has been removed. A shed dormer on the rear of the wing roof is a later addition, probably when the outbuildings were connected to the house in what appears to have been the early 20th century. Both the dormer and outbuildings are sided with wood shingles. The one-story L-shaped, cross-gable wing has a domestic use, but it may have been built for agricultural purposes. The story-and-a-half barn or shop east of the house has a front gable façade that associates it with the style and construction date of the house. Due to a recent conversion to a condominium dwelling, the front façade has been altered and now contains an entrance and picture window on the first story and three windows on the upper story: a standard size in the center with smaller ones under the eaves. The trim on the raking roof edge, similar to that on the house, has been preserved. A one-story machinery shed attached to the west side of the barn is now in domestic use although the vehicle doors have been retained. A one-story shed-roof wing is attached to the east side of the barn. A small hipped-roof outbuilding, perhaps a pumphouse, is located near the barn.

The farm complex has lost its agricultural setting due to a series of residential subdivisions made in the neighborhood in the late 20th century. The buildings are sited close to its lot lines and fronted by a lawn and driveway.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

No house is shown on the site of 2022 Nauset Road on the 1858 Eastham map, but when Nathan A. Gill and Edward Brewer sold a three-acre parcel to Heman S. Gill for $45 in 1862, buildings were standing on the lot.[1] In November 1856 Heman S. Gill (1824-1906), the son of Nathan Atwood Gill (1809-82) and Tamsen Gould Gill, married Mary J. Brewer (1833-1904), the daughter of Edward Brewer (1809-81) and his wife Lillian Ward of Wellfleet. Nathan A. Gill and Edward Brewer lived just north of the site of this house on the north side of Nauset Road. Heman S. Gill was a master carpenter, and the 1860 census lists him with $100 in property and living with his wife and their son George Edward just before the household of his father Nathan. The house might have been in the process of being built when the census was taken.

The 1870 census shows the Heman S. Gill household with the same three persons in it as in 1860. In 1879 Gill was one of three Eastham men who helped prepare the installation of the “new French cable” when it was brought by steamer ten miles off the Eastham coast and attached to a buoy. Gill, Thomas K. Mayo, and Fletcher Doane took a dory out to meet the steamer to determine the situation of the cable and relay the news to those on shore. Work then began to lay a cable in a trench dug for it from a station onshore so that officials of the French Cable Company and the American Union Telegraph Company could connect it to the ocean cable. It was the second transatlantic telegraph cable between France and Massachusetts.[2]

Heman S. Gill and his wife and son George, by then also a carpenter, were living in the 2022 Nauset Road house in 1880 with niece and nephew Jessie C. and Washington Bearse. Gill also served Eastham as a town undertaker and surveyor of lumber and was active in Republican party politics. Son George married Elsie F. Cole of Eastham in 1884 and moved to Reading later in that decade. The 1900 census lists Heman S. and Mary J. Gill alone in the Nauset Road house.

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[1] Nathan A. Gill and Edward Brewer to Heman S. Gill, 7 February 1862, BCD 98:234.
[2] “The New French Cable,” *Yarmouth Register*, 22 November 1879, 2.

Mary Brewer Gill died in 1904, and Heman S. Gill moved shortly afterward to live with this son George in Reading. He died there in 1906. George E. Gill, whose first wife had died in Reading in 1898, remarried in 1901 to California native Emeline P. Nichols Wylie; he inherited his parents' homestead and was living there probably by 1905. The 1910 census lists George E. Gill as a house carpenter living with second wife Emeline and children Eleanor B. and Edward. By 1920 Gill had given up house construction for truck farming, and son Edward worked with him; by then the Gills also had the income of two boarders.

In 1921 George E. Gill sold the house and three acres along five other parcels to James Putnam Brewer (1896-1937), and by 1930 Gill and his wife were living in Franklin, New Hampshire, where he died in April 1940.[3] James P. Brewer was the son of Frank J. Brewer, a second cousin to George E. Gill. He may have been living at 2022 Nauset Road in 1930, when the census lists him in a household with wife Lucille and children Carol and Richard. Brewer took out a mortgage with the Federal Land Bank of Springfield in 1931 but had defaulted by November 1933, and in December 1941 the bank sold the property to Clifton S. and Clarice E. Prescott.[4]

Clifton Sanborn Prescott was born in Lynn in 1890 and was an electrical engineer. He served overseas with the Army in World War I, and by 1920 he was living and working in Chicago. In that year he married Clarice E. Hutchins of Chicago suburb Oak Park, and by 1930 the couple and their sons John A. and Charles E. had moved to Cranford, New Jersey. Prescott worked for Western Electric Company in nearby Kearny. The Prescotts sold the property in 1962 to Colis D. and Joanne D. Peters, who subdivided the three-acre parcel into three lots in 1986. In August that year they sold the house and outbuildings on a 0.78-acre lot to Nauset Farm Realty Trust, which created two condominiums and sold the house as Unit A to Carter and Linda Lloyd of Holden in 1994. In 2002 John S. and Jennifer A. Berlane bought the property, and they were the owners in 2020.[5]

The barn on the property became Unit B and converted into a dwelling. The Nauset Farm Realty Trust sold it to Tracy O'Connor of New York City in 1992 who conveyed the title to Andrew O'Connor of Huntington, New York in 1995. Margaret L. Dale, Wilma Rosenberg and Ruth W. Flaherty, all of Roxbury, purchased Unit B from Andrew O'Connor in 1999, and in 2016 they sold it to John S. and Jennifer Berlane who already owned Unit A.[6]

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[3] George E. Gill to James P. Brewer, 8 February 1921, BCD 378:349.

[4] James P. Brewer to Federal Land Bank of Springfield, 8 November 1933, BCD 497:497; Federal Land Bank of Springfield to Clifton S. and Clarice E. Prescott, 31 December 1941, BCD 589:592.

[5] Clifton S. and Clarice E. Prescott to Collis D. and Joanne D. Peters, 5 June 1962, BCD 1160:133; Collis D. and Joanne D. Peters to J. Michael Connolly and Bruce P. Pinto, trustees Nauset Farm Realty Trust, 1 August 1986, BCD 5226:7; J. Michael Connolly, trustee Nauset Farm Realty Trust, to Carter and Linda Lloyd, Holden, 30 September 1994, BCD 9393:185; Carter and Linda Lloyd, Holden, to John S. and Jennifer A. Berlane, 2020 Nauset Road, 19 April 2002, BCD 15065:3. See also "Subdivision Plan of Land in Eastham, Mass., Prepared for Collis D. & Joanne E. Peters," 13 March 1986, BCP 414:25, and "'Nauset Farms Condominium' Site Plan & United Plans—Land in Eastham, Massachusetts Prepared for Nauset Farm Realty Trust," 9 January 1992, BCP 488:37.

[6] J. Michael Connolly, trustee Nauset Farm Realty Trust, to Tracy O'Connor, New York City, 1 June 1992, BCD 8058:48; Tracy O'Connor to Andrew O'Connor, Huntington, NY, 2 June 1995, BCD 10243:157; Andrew O'Connor, Port Washington, NY, one-third undivided interests to Margaret L. Dale and Wilma Rosenberg, West Roxbury, and Ruth W. Flaherty, Brookline, 9 March 1999, BCD 12172:3; Margaret L. Dale, Wilma Rosenberg and Ruth W. Flaherty, West Roxbury, to John S. & Jennifer A. Berlane, 2020 Nauset Road, 4 November 2016, BCD 30065:206.

Continuation sheet 2

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MAPS
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PHOTOGRAPHS

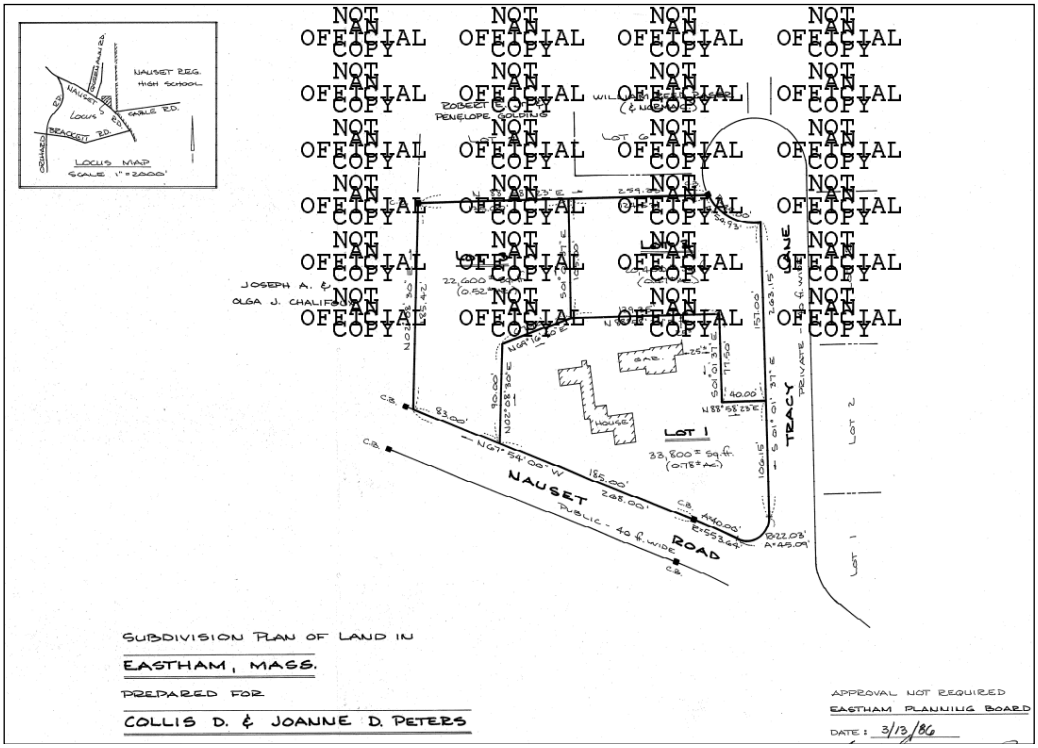
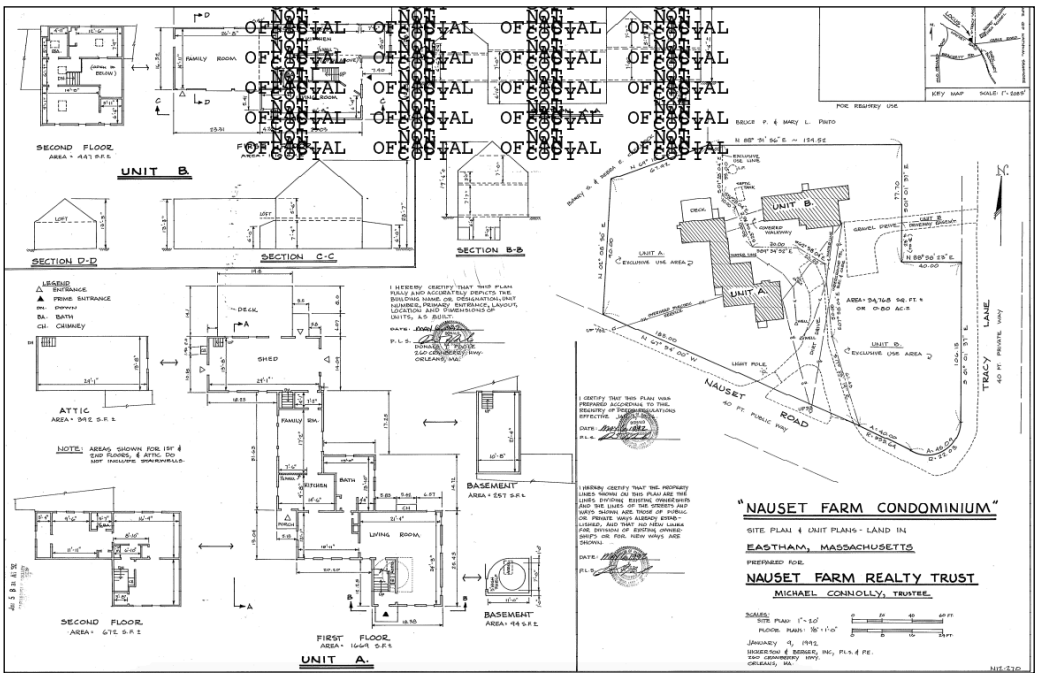
(credit Larson Fisher Associates, 2019 unless otherwise noted)

View of house and barn from south.

View of house from west.

View of outbuildings connected to house from west,

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Above: The 2022 Nauset Road house and barn are is shown on Lot 1 on the Peters 1986 plan (BCP 414:25). Below: The house as Unit A and the barn as Unit B in the 1992 Nauset Farm Realty Trust condominium conversion plan (BCP 488:37).